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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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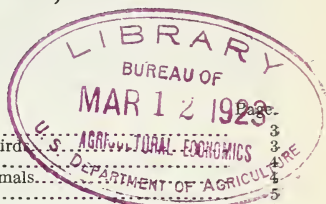
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA ON THE ALASKA GAME LAW, 1922.

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TERRITORY OF ALASKA,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Juneau, November 11, 1922.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith my second annual report on the administration of the Alaska game law (act approved May 11, 1908, as subsequently amended) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1922.

Respectfully, .

SCOTT C. BONE, *Governor.*

Hon. HENRY CANTWELL WALLACE,
Secretary of Agriculture.

INTRODUCTION.

Conditions touching animal and bird life in Alaska are decidedly favorable and encouraging at the close of the year. Game is plentiful. According to reports of wardens and outdoor men generally, animal life of all varieties is increasing rather than decreasing. To the mild winter of 1921-22 and the relatively small number of prospectors and hunters in the hills is ascribed the increase of deer, moose, and caribou. It is the consensus of opinion that these are multiplying rapidly.

Instances of the wanton destruction of game and flagrant violations of the law are remarkably few, considering the magnitude of the unprotected and unpatrolled domain. Respect for the law is the rule.

Territorial game wardens in the main take their work seriously and are attentive and vigilant in the performance of their duties.

The fact is constantly impressed upon them that service is the watchword. Necessarily no warden can possibly cover the whole of the region to which he is assigned. He can only be alert and on the move, and give prompt heed to reported depredations or law violations brought to his notice. The majority of these wardens, enthusiastic and zealous, are doing much toward educating the people to the need of conserving wild life and familiarizing them with the law and regulations.

The schools of the Territory are cooperating splendidly by the use of a questionnaire on animals and birds, as proposed a year ago by the game warden in the Juneau district. Even in its inceptive stages this educational plan is proving most valuable and helpful. A spirit of public cooperation is more widely marked than heretofore.

Simplification is most desirable in the making of regulations and the presentation of laws and regulations to the people. Too often these are complicated and confusing. The Territory has adopted the form of a condensed code in compact pamphlet form, setting forth the facts as to open and closed seasons, license fees, rules, etc.—Federal and Territorial—all of which can be comprehended at a glance. Obviously, detailed citations and lengthy quotations from statutes are unnecessary and serve no purpose.

Likewise and similarly in devising and creating any new system for the supervision and conservation of wild life and the enforcement of game laws, simplicity of organization and administrative methods should be the paramount aim and end. Coordination and efficiency can not otherwise be attained.

The steady extension of the functions of local government in Alaska is a wise policy. Territorial administration of the game laws under a simple and workable arrangement can be efficiently and safely brought about. With a game commissioner for the Territory at large and a chief game warden in each of the four judicial divisions, serving under the direction of the governor and empowered to make regulations, subject to his approval, and an adequate number of wardens, satisfactory supervision and conservation would certainly be assured. Alaskans who know the country are clearly the best equipped to perform this service. Administration at long range, however lofty its aim, is inherently inefficient and unsatisfactory. Moreover, all legislation affecting Alaska should henceforth contemplate the extension of Territorial government and the reduction of administrative functions through Federal bureaus.

DEER.

Reported increasing rapidly on the islands about Cordova, and also on Baranof and smaller islands near Sitka. A slight decrease is noted in the vicinity of Ketchikan.

MOOSE.

A larger number reported in the Kantishna district than for some time past. They are thriving on the Kenai Peninsula, due to mild winter and scant population. Warden estimates the number in Kenai at 5,000. Plentiful in the upper Kuskokwim section. Fairbanks district reports increase in the Bonnifield and Little Delta regions. McCarthy is the only section which reports a decrease.

CARIBOU.

Migratory herds the greatest known in the history of the interior. Vast numbers seen in the Kantishna district. Herds ranging northwest of Mount McKinley seemed in fine condition; estimated at 30,000 upward. Many were seen about Nenana and Fairbanks. On the trail between McGrath and Rainy Pass the run was very large. The total number of caribou in Alaska is variously estimated from 500,000 to 1,000,000, but these figures are guesswork necessarily.

SHEEP.

A marked general increase is reported. The warden estimates the number on the Kenai Peninsula at 2,500. Many in the Kantishna district and plentiful in the upper Kuskokwim region and in the vicinity of Jones River. Increase noted in the White River country and about Fairbanks. Thousands are reported in the Mount McKinley region.

GOATS.

None near the coast on the Alaska Peninsula; a few in the high ranges. About McCarthy more plentiful than in former years, and found on all the mountains. Some on the mainland about Ketchikan, but none on the islands. The Kenai Peninsula shows a slight increase, the warden estimating the number at 200.

BROWN BEARS.

The sentiment is still very strong throughout Alaska to remove the protection accorded this predatory beast. It is a protection that does not protect. The browns are numerous at Kodiak, Afognak, Alaska Peninsula, Kenai Peninsula, Sitka, Chichagof, and McCarthy. At Afognak three hunters met four bald-faced Kodiak bears of the most ferocious species. One of the hunters was killed.

BLACK BEARS.

Few on the Alaska Peninsula. A small increase is reported on Kenai Peninsula. Estimated number there is 600. Increasing and plentiful in the Kantishna, Fairbanks, McCarthy, and Ketchikan sections.

NONMIGRATORY BIRDS.

PTARMIGAN.

On the Kenai and Alaska Peninsulas and in the interior enormous gains. At some places in the spring the beaches were white with them. Quite thick in and about Kantishna for the first time in seven years. Anchorage country shows an increase, due, it is thought, to the removal of the railroad camps. More plentiful in Nome district and along the coast to a distance of 10 miles inland. Fairbanks and McCarthy report substantial increases.

GROUSE.

On the Alaska Peninsula and in the interior large increase during the year. In the Kantishna plentiful for the first time in seven years; also in the Anchorage region. Fairbanks reports a notable increase.

MIGRATORY BIRDS.**GEESE.**

Large numbers in the region of Lake Minchumina in the Kantishna district. This is a breeding place. Few about Nome, due to a late, cold season, but more plentiful about Fairbanks. In their migratory flight, white geese are predominant; brant next and then the speckled breasted species. No geese seen in the McCarthy section. No increase noted near Ketchikan, where it has been observed that geese fly inland to the lakes and do not migrate.

DUCKS.

Large numbers on Lake Minchumina, which is a breeding place for both ducks and geese. Few ducks seen in the Nome country. It is estimated that 10,000 mallards wintered near Cordova. Game conditions are much improved in this section as to the killing of ducks and robbing of nests. Fairbanks and McCarthy report ducks as plentiful. Ketchikan reports no appreciable decrease or increase.

EIDER DUCKS.

Increasing in Cook Inlet and on the string of small islands along the coast between Kodiak Island and Snug Harbor.

CRANES AND SWANS.

Warden at Fairbanks reports seeing fifty of the blue or sandhill variety and about a dozen swans. In a flock of 8 swans there was 1 black.

FUR-BEARING ANIMALS.**MARTENS.**

Reported as increasing and plentiful in the Kantishna, upper Kuskokwim, McCarthy, and Ketchikan districts.

BEAVERS.

Reported plentiful on most of the streams tributary to the Kuskokwim and Iditarod Rivers and as having spread in many directions, even in the tundra sections between Bethel and the Yukon River. Scarce in McCarthy region, where last year they were plentiful; many in the Ketchikan district.

FOXES.

Scarce in the upper Kuskokwim and McCarthy sections, but reported in good numbers and increasing in the second (Nome) division and in the Kantishna country.

LYNXES.

Reported in good numbers and increasing in the Kantishna country, but scarce at McCarthy and throughout the Nome country.

MINKS.

A variety known as tundra mink is plentiful along the coast of the Arctic. Plentiful in the McCarthy country, but less so in the Ketchikan district, owing to overhunting with lights.

MUSKRATS.

Reported as scarce in the McCarthy country but appear to be as plentiful as usual in other sections of the Territory.

ERMINE.

Reported slightly increased in McCarthy and plentiful in country about Ketchikan.

ARCTIC HARES.

These animals are plentiful along the Alaska Peninsula, and are reappearing by thousands, doing damage to planted areas and feeding grounds of other wild game. This is also true of rabbits in this district and about Anchorage.

LAND OTTERS.

Plentiful about Ketchikan.

SEA OTTERS.

Depredations by poachers reported numerous and the herd shows no increase.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Wolves, wolverenes, eagles, hawks, and coyotes are increasing and their depredations on the fur bearers and game animals seem to warrant an additional bounty on these predatory birds and animals. The bounty now provided by the Territory, \$0.50 for eagles and \$15 for wolves, is not sufficient to make hunting them profitable. The money paid in bounties as reported by the Territorial treasurer was \$902 on eagles and \$2,955 on wolves.

FUR FARMING.

Blue-fox and marten farming on islands of southeastern Alaska is proving profitable and is becoming popular.

APPENDIX.

TABLE I.—Hunting licenses issued during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1922.

No.	Date issued.	Citizen of—	Fee.	No.	Date issued.	Citizen of—	Fee.
15	July 1, 1921	United States.....	\$50	26	Mar. 21, 1922	United States.....	\$50
16	....do.....	....do.....	50	27	....do.....	....do.....	50
17	July 13, 1921	....do.....	50	28	May 3, 1922	....do.....	50
18	Aug. 3, 1921	....do.....	50	29	Mar. 9, 1922	....do.....	50
19	....do.....	....do.....	50	30	May 15, 1922	....do.....	50
20	Aug. 4, 1921	....do.....	50	31	May 30, 1922	....do.....	50
21	Aug. 13, 1921	....do.....	50	32	....do.....	....do.....	50
22	Aug. 26, 1921	....do.....	50	33	....do.....	....do.....	50
23	Sept. 12, 1921	....do.....	50	34	June 5, 1922	....do.....	50
24	Sept. 23, 1921	....do.....	50				
25	Dec. 12, 1921	....do.....	50			Total.....	1,000

TABLE II.—Special moose-shipping licenses issued during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1922.

No.	Date issued.	Citizen of—	Fee.
33	Oct. 27, 1921	United States.....	\$150
34	....do.....	....do.....	150
		Total.....	300

TABLE III.—General game-shipping licenses issued during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1922.

No.	Date issued.	Game or trophy.	Fee.	No.	Date issued.	Game or trophy.	Fee.
306	July 11, 1921	1 mountain-goat head..	\$5	329	Nov. 29, 1921	1 deer hide.....	\$5
307	July 12, 1921	1 brown bear skin.....	5	330	....do.....	....do.....	5
308	July 15, 1921	....do.....	5	331	Jan. 20, 1922	1 brown bear skin.....	5
309	Aug. 24, 1921	....do.....	5	332	Feb. 1, 1922	....do.....	5
310	Sept. 8, 1921	....do.....	5	333	....do.....	....do.....	5
311	Sept. 17, 1921	....do.....	5	334	....do.....	....do.....	5
312	....do.....	1 mountain-sheep head.	10	335	Feb. 17, 1922	1 mountain-sheep head.	10
313	Oct. 1, 1921	1 moose head.....	40	336	Feb. 23, 1922	1 brown bear hide.....	5
314	Oct. 2, 1921	1 brown bear hide.....	5	337	....do.....	1 mountain-sheep head.	10
315	Oct. 6, 1921	....do.....	5	338	....do.....	....do.....	10
316	....do.....	....do.....	5	339	....do.....	....do.....	10
317	Oct. 7, 1921	1 grizzly bear skin.....	5	340	....do.....	1 caribou head.....	10
318	Oct. 20, 1921	1 brown bear hide.....	5	341	Mar. 6, 1922	1 deer head.....	5
319	Oct. 24, 1921	1 mountain-sheep head.	10	342	....do.....	....do.....	5
320				343	Apr. 1, 1922	1 brown bear skin.....	5
321	Canceled.....			344	....do.....	1 mountain-sheep head.	10
322	Oct. 31, 1921	1 brown bear hide.....	5	345	....do.....	1 brown bear skin.....	5
323	Nov. 22, 1921	....do.....	5	346	Apr. 12, 1922	1 mountain-sheep head.	10
324	....do.....	....do.....	5	347	Apr. 29, 1922	1 grizzly bear skin.....	5
325	Nov. 29, 1921	1 deer head.....	5	348	May 29, 1922	1 brown bear skin.....	5
326	....do.....	....do.....	5	349	June 5, 1922	....do.....	5
327	....do.....	....do.....	5				
328	....do.....	....do.....	5			Total.....	290

TABLE IV.—*Game or trophies shipped from Alaska for private use during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1922.*¹

No.	Date of shipment.	Kind and number of game or trophies.	Residence of shipper.
HUNTING LICENSES.			
12	July 13, 1921	4 mountain sheep heads.....	United States.
	.....do.....	1 brown bear skin.....	Do.
	July 21, 1921	3 brown bear skins.....	Do.
	July 25, 1921	1 brown bear skin.....	Do.
	July 29, 1921	1 mountain sheep head.....	Do.
18	Aug. 3, 1921	.....do.....	Do.
20	Oct. 6, 1921	.....do.....	Do.
11 21	Oct. 28, 1921	3 moose heads, 3 mountain sheep heads, 2 caribou heads and capes..	Do.
SPECIAL MOOSE-SHIPING LICENSES.			
None.			
GENERAL GAME-SHIPING LICENSES.			
318	July 5, 1921	3 mountain sheep capes.....	United States.
	Aug. 16, 1921	1 brown bear skin.....	Do.
	Aug. 23, 1921	.....do.....	Do.
	Aug. 26, 1921	9 brown bear skins.....	Do.
	Aug. 28, 1921	1 brown bear skin.....	Do.
	Aug. 29, 1921	1 mountain goat head.....	Do.
	Aug. 30, 1921	17 mountain sheep skins.....	Do.
	Aug. 31, 1921	1 brown bear skin.....	Do.
	Sept. 2, 1921	3 brown bear skins.....	Do.
	Oct. 1, 1921	18 caribou horns.....	Do.
	.....do.....	11 mountain sheep horns.....	Do.
	.....do.....	3 mountain goat horns.....	Do.
	.....do.....	11 moose heads.....	Do.
	Oct. 4, 1921	3 crates big game trophies.....	British Columbia
	Oct. 8, 1921	6 moose heads.....	United States.
	.....do.....	25 mountain sheep heads.....	Do.
	.....do.....	16 caribou heads.....	Do.
	.....do.....	13 mountain sheep skins.....	Do.
	.....do.....	2 moose skins.....	Do.
	.....do.....	6 caribou skins.....	Do.
	Oct. 10, 1921	20 brown bear skins.....	Do.
	Oct. 11, 1921	2 crates big game trophies.....	British Columbia
	Oct. 12, 1921	5 crates big game trophies.....	Do.
	Oct. 21, 1921	1 brown bear skin.....	United States.
	.....do.....	4 mountain sheep heads.....	Do.
	Nov. 8, 1921	2 brown bear skins.....	Do.
	Nov. 12, 1921	3 brown bear skins.....	Do.
	.....do.....	4 mountain sheep heads.....	Do.
336	Dec. 12, 1921	6 deer hides, 1 moose head.....	Do.
	Dec. 14, 1921	1 moose head.....	Do.
337	.....do.....	3 caribou heads.....	Do.
	.....do.....	1 brown bear skin.....	Do.
338	Jan. 14, 1922	.....do.....	Do.
	Jan. 16, 1922	1 mountain goat skin.....	Do.
339	.....do.....	1 brown bear skin.....	Do.
	.....do.....	1 mountain sheep head.....	Do.
340	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
341	Mar. 6, 1922	1 deer head.....	Do.
342	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
344	.....do.....	1 mountain sheep head.....	Do.
345	.....do.....	1 brown bear skin.....	Do.
349	June 5, 1922do.....	Do.

¹ Trophies shipped as baggage or household goods not included.

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